

## Cancer

### Allen, Katharine (Mrs. Israel) of Shrewsbury

Not in Shrewsbury VR.

1771 Apr. 28. Katharine Allen, formerly Joslin, dismissed and to be recommended to the first Church in Shrewsbury. (Westborough CR)

1778 June 25 (Thursday). In returning home [from Worcester] called (besides the usual places) at Mr. *Israel Allen's*, to See his Wife who, tis thought, has a Cancer. Arrived safe. To God the Glory!

1778 August 10 (Monday). As I came home [from Shrewsbury] I made a Visit to Mrs. *Katharine Allen* (wife of Mr. *Israel Allen*) who is confined by a *Cancer*. Mr. *Allen* also is under much Weakness -- conversed and prayed with them.

### "anointing with Clay to cure bad Sores – Cancer, etc.," 1782

1782 September 25 (Wednesday). Rev. Mr. *Langton* of *York*, and his Daughter, Miss *Hannah*, going to *Farmington*, Stopped and lodged here. N.B. They inform of anointing with Clay to cure bad Sores -- Cancer, etc. N.B. No Sand may be among the Clay.

### Beeman, old Mrs. of Marlborough

1744 March 28 (Wednesday). My Wife and I rode to Marlborough. P.M. visited old Mrs. Beeman under her Cancer.

1744 September 30 (Sunday). N.B. Mrs. Beeman sick and pray'd for.

Death not in Marlborough VR.

### Bowker, Charles, of Shrewsbury

1781 March 22 (Thursday). I visited Mrs. *Lucy Forbush* (wife of Ebenezer) on account of the Death of her Brother Mr. Charles Bowker by a Cancer.

Lt. Charles Bouker, d. Mar. 11, 1781, in his 56<sup>th</sup> year. Shrewsbury VR 244

**Bowker, Martha, wife of Asa of Shrewsbury**

1748 March 7 (Monday). Heard that Mr. Asa Bowker's wife (a worthy woman!) dyed yesterday at Shrewsbury of a cancer.

Martha, wife of Asa Bowker, d. Mar. 6, 1747, a. 54 y., 6 m., 21 d; Shrewsbury VR 244.

**Breck, widow of John**

1766 May 29 (Thursday). Set my Self to pay all my Debts in Town.... P.M. the Convention met, but I was not there till the (last) prayer was over, having thought my Self obliged to visit the widow (of John) Breck under her Cancer, of which she was labored above a Year.

1766 July 17 (Thursday). Mr. Moore and I rode back to Boston.... Visit Mrs. Breck, whose Cancer, She thinks, is better.

**Brigham, Ebenezer (died Feb. 23, 1765)**

1765 January 16 (Wednesday). I visit Ebenezer Brigham (who lives at the Joslin place) having heard he was ill. Discoursed with him. Instructed and prayed with him. Dr. Balls young man, *Fales*, came. I dined there.

1765 January 23 (Wednesday). N.B. I went on Rackets from Widow Bellows to Mr. Moses Parkers, where Mrs. *Parmentor* lies. I prayed with her -- and visited and prayed with Mr. Ebenezer Brigham.

1765 February 19 (Tuesday). It is so bad riding on Horseback, that I went in my sleigh to see Mr. Ebenezer Brigham who is very bad again; and especially has terrible sores, like Cancers, upon his Hands. I dined there.

1765 February 22 (Friday). Visit Mr. *Ebenezer Brigham* again and pray with him. Many there. I conversed with him with much Fervency, and it seems to succeed in some Measure. D.G. Dr. *Ball* and *Fales* there, and Expect Dr. *Wilson* and *Dexter*: but it looks as if in vain.

1765 February 24 (Sunday). Am informed that Mr. *Ebenezer Brigham* expired yesterday p.m.

1765 February 26 (Tuesday). Was at the *Funeral of Mr. Ebenezer Brigham*. Prayed but did not go to the Grave, because he was buryed at *Southborough*. Mr. *Stone* attended also -- and went with the people.

**Bruce, Lt. Abijah (1693-1774)**

1774 March 10 (Thursday). Visit old Lt. *Bruce* whose Cancer prevails in his Nose and right Cheek and his wife who is very aged and dropsical. Discoursed and prayed with them.

1774 March 23 (Wednesday). I visited and prayed with old Lt. Bruce and his Wife.

1774 April 16 (Saturday). I visited Lt. Bruce and his Wife, under great Affliction and prayed with them.

1774 May 5 (Thursday). In returning I called to see Lt. *Bruce* and his Wife.

1774 May 30 (Monday). I visited Lt. *Bruce* and prayed with him and his Aged wife. He waxes weaker and weaker.

1774 June 9 (Thursday). Visit and pray with old Lt. *Bruce* and his wife.

1774 June 11 (Saturday). Mr. Simon Tainter calls to See me, with his wife, having visited his F. Bruce.

1774 July 27 (Wednesday). Hear that Lt. *Bruce's* Cancer has eat through his Cheek, and that magots are taken out from it. The purulent Matter runs down into his Dish, and hardly to be Separated from his Food. A deplorable Case! God be praised I am preserved from such Evil! May God Support him and prepare him for His holy Will!

1774 July 28 (Thursday). P.M. visit Lt. *Bruce* and his wife: discoursed and prayed with them. His Cancer has so prevailed that it is a sad spectacle!

1774 August 15 (Monday). I visited Lt. *Bruce* and prayed with him.

1774 September 8 (Thursday). P.M. rode to See old Lt. Bruce under his Cancer. Prayed there.

1774 October 13 (Thursday). Visit old Lt. Bruce and prayed with him also.

1774 November 15 (Tuesday). A.M. visit Lt. *Bruce* and pray with him.

1774 November 29 (Tuesday). Heard that Lieut. *Bruce* was near his End. Turned my Course from going either to Marlborough or Southborough as I designed and went to Lt. Bruce's. He was low, but calm -- said but little, but answered as if he was in Hope concerning his state. Prayed with him, and took final Leave.

1774 December 2 (Friday). Lieut. *Bruce dies* about 2 o'Clock p.m. He was nigh 81. Was born Nov. 27 O.S. 1693.

1774 December 3 (Saturday). Mr. *Artemas Bruce* here, to acquaint me with his Aged Fathers Death, and Desire that I would attend the Funeral next Monday at 12 o'Clock.

1774 December 4 (Sunday). P.M. on Occasion of Lt. *Bruce's* Death, I delivered an Exercise collected from divers parts of Sermon on *James* 5.9, but read therewith v. 8, as being Similar to it. May I be duely affected with it, and prepare for the Coming of the Lord!

1774 December 5 (Monday). Attended the Funeral of *Lieut. Bruce*. His Widow is bowed down with Infirmitys, being 7 years older than her late Husband.

### **Byles, Rebecca - Old Mrs. (1672-1768)**

Rebecca Stewart, daughter of Alexander and Deborah (Rediat, Forbush) Stewart, born in Concord, Feb. 15, 1672; married Joseph Byles of Marlborough and Westborough.

1767 July 23 (Thursday). P.M. I visit old Mrs. *Byles* and pray with her. She has a Rose Cancer.

1768 February 5 (Friday). While I was gone to Shrewsbury dyed old Mrs. *Rebecca Byles*, who was within about a Month of 94 Years. She expired January 28.

1768 March 24 (Thursday). But what was chiefly remarkable to Day was, Deacon *Forbes* expired about 8 o'Clock this Morning, having just compleated his 84th Year. When his sister *Byles* and Brother *Samuel* were living, their Ages, together with their sister *Grow's*, amounted to 348. And indeed as the 3 first were far advanced in their Year it might be accounted 351. Miss *Mary Steward*, half sister to the two last, is now in her 80th year also.

### **Forbush, Aaron of Brookfield**

1752 June 4 (Thursday). I rode over to Brookfield Town when the Company was gone with Deacon Forbush to visit Lieutenant Aaron Forbush under his terrible Cancer. [N.B. We call'd in to see Captain Ayres.] The sore which Lieutenant is distress'd by has altered him extremely -- but he is much Supported. I lodg'd at Dr. Pynchons, but the Doctor not yet return'd from Court.

1752 June 5 (Friday). I preach'd to Lieutenant Forbush on Mat. 24.44, which may God please to Bless to us all!

Matthew 24:44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Aaron Forbush, d. Sept. 27, 1753; Brookfield VR 485

**Forbes, Molly (Parkman), wife of Eli Forbes and Parkman's Oldest Daughter**

1759 August 25 (Saturday). Before the Family (at Mr. Eatons) were stirring I rose and tackled -- and without Seeing any of them rode to Brookfield and broke fast with my Daughter Forb. and Mr. *Manning* -- he tarried to dine and then sat out for Westborough to preach in my stead. My Daughter is distressed on Account of an hard tumor in her left Breast, which was heretofore broke....

**1760 SEPTEMBER 14: 37 YEARS OLD**

1760 September 30 (Tuesday). My Son Forbush's Child so very ill; my Daughter also so bad with her Breast, that Mr. Forb. does not go to Cold Spring.

1760 October 3 (Friday). N.B. Had a Letter from Mr. Forbush yesterday, that his little son dyed the Day before: And his Wife's Breast has been lanced by himself.

**1774 SEPTEMBER 14: 49 YEARS OLD**

1775 January 10 (Tuesday). My Son *Forbes* and his Wife came from Cape Ann, but last from Mr. *Brooks's* at *Medford*. Their Daughter *Coffin* brought forth a Daughter (whom they have called *Polly*) on December 30 last. To God her Deliverer be Glory and Praise! May the Child be new-born and an Instrument of the divine Glory! They lodge here. My Daughters Trouble in her Breast somewhat mitigated, by Methods used by Friend *Pope* of *Boston*. Thanks to the Supreme Healer!

1775 February 7 (Tuesday). Wrote to Mr. *Quincy*, and Sent it by *Ripley*, who came from *Brookfield*, and brings me a Letter from Mr. *Forbes* etc., who writes of his ill Reception when he and his Wife went home from Cape Ann, that her Breast is no better -- that he has asked a *Dismission* -- and I perceive that he is greatly discouraged.

1775 March 13 (Monday). Mr. *Forbes* and my Daughter Set out on their Journey to *Boston*, designing to go to Mr. *Pope*, to consult him on her Sad Case, of her Breast. *Gin*, their Negro Girl, rides in Mr. *Elisha Forbes's* Waggon.

1775 March 22 (Wednesday). A Second Letter from my Son *Forbes* at *Boston*, that his Wife has gone through a Second Dressing by the hard Plaister and "by appearance these two have en[crusted?] the Schirrous Tumor about 1/4 of an inch. This dead mass must be separated from the live Flesh by digestive lenient Dressings before another hard Dressing is applied: which will require a Week or ten Days."

1775 March 24 (Friday). Received another Letter from Mr. *Forbes*, dated the 20th (the Day before the last, which was the 21st) that "moment" whilst She was actually "under the painfull Operation of the 2d *hard Plaister*, and is as full of pain as She can well bear, though She endures (he writes) with more patience and fortitude than I feared. The Doctor says all Things work

very kindly, and he doubts not with the Blessing of God he shall be able to effect a Cure: but will require some time, at least two Months. At present she is extremely agitated. Last Night she had no sleep, and this Night (Sabbath 2 o'Clock) She has been much worse -- but by the help of an Anodyne she gets a little sleep -- hope She will be supported and carryed through -- I am encouraged, but verily Sir, it is hard Work -- and we hope in God." "Six o'Clock in the Morning. We have got through the Night. It has been pritty distressing, though through the great Goodness of God mine and your dear *Molly* has had several refreshing Naps of Sleep, and is now Comfortable -- and does not expect to have any more of these hard Plaisters for a Week or ten Days, and I hope the worst is past. However, Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof."

1775 March 28 (Tuesday). Put up at Bracketts: hastened to Samuels to see Mrs. *Forbes*. She was under the lenient Plaister -- was calm and easy. I saw the sore dressed.

1775 March 29 (Wednesday). Mrs. *Forbes* has Comfort, and is cheerfull. We lodged there.

1775 April 15 (Saturday). A Letter from Mr. *Forbes* (by *Ripley*, who is come to us from *Boston* and *Cambridge*) that on the 13th the Remainder of the Cancer in my Daughters Breast came out in a *Body*, near of the Bigness and Shape of a Sheeps Kidney -- the Breast in an healing way. All Praise and Thanks to the glorious God our Healer!

1775 May 5 (Friday). *Ripley* from *Cambridge* here. Certifies that my Daughter *Forbes* at *Cape-Ann*, recovers apace.

1775 June 4 (Sunday). At Evening *Breck* returned from his Journey, in which he went to *Cape-Anne*, and saw his Sister *Forbes*, who is (through Gods Goodness) recovering apace.

1775 June 30 (Friday). My Daughter *Forbes* goes to *Mendon* in search of her Doctor, *Pope*: her Breast has Twinges, and she wants some of his [*illegible*] salve.

1775 September 13 (Wednesday). Mr. *Forbes* [*torn*] (having been to Dr. [*Pope?*] at *Mendon* about her Breast) came, as did *William* [*torn*] and Daughter *Lydia*. *Alexander*, his Wife and young Child -- *Samuel* with his [*torn*] -- Mr. *Whitney* came also and dined with us.

### **1775 SEPTEMBER 14: 50 YEARS OLD**

1775 September 14 (Thursday). Mr. *Forbes*, his Wife and [*illegible*] left us and are going to *Cape Ann*.

1776 January 8 (Monday). N.B. My son *William* wrote me by one *Osmer* and inclosed part of his Brother *Forbes's* Letter from *Gloucester* of his Wifes Illness, and fear of her Cancer's rising again. At eve wrote to Mr. *Forbes*.

1776 January 19 (Friday). But *Billy* comes from *Concord* -- with The Heavy News, and Letter from my dear son *Forbes*! Of my most dear Child *Mary's* Departure on the 16th at Eve, between 9 and 10 o'Clock! O Lord, Help!

**Forbush, Sarah, widow of Samuel, Sr. (?-1776)**

d. Oct. 1, 1776

1771 September 19 (Thursday). In the Morning had been at Mr. *Samuel Forbush's*, and Saw the sore in his mothers Breast, which I judge is a Cancer.

1774 October 27 (Thursday). At Mr. Samuel Forbush's -- talked with his Mother who has a Cancer in her left side.

1774 December 16 (Friday). Visited old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* who has a bad Cancer in her side, and a terrible sore in her Foot.

1775 January 24 (Tuesday). Visit also Old Mrs. Sarah Forbush under her Cancer.

1775 March 21 (Tuesday). In my returning home I called to see old Mr. *Gale*, confined to his Bed, by the Rheumatism. Prayed with him: also old Mrs. Forbush under her Cancer: and prayed with her.

1775 July 17 (Monday). I went to the aged Widow *Sarah Forbush*; who is grown dropsical, besides the trouble of her Cancer. Conversed, examined and prayed with her.

1776 April 3 (Wednesday). A.M. Visit old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush*. Saw her Cancer. Prayed with her.

1776 June 17 (Monday). And visited also old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush*, under her Cancer Still and prayed with her.

1776 August 23 (Friday). Visit old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* under her Cancer, and prayed with her.

1776 October 3 (Thursday). Before I got home I prayed at the Funeral of old Mrs. *Sarah Forbush* who dyed on the 1st of her Cancer.

**Gibbs, Mrs. Jacob of Hopkinton**

1746 September 18 (Thursday). Fast at Mr. Jacob Gibbs's in Hopkinton: after visiting Several sick Familys (Mr. Chamberlins, Captain Maynards, Mr. Pratts and Mr. Jonah Warrins) I rode over to those Exercises. Mrs. Gibbs lyes in a miserable Condition by a Cancer in her Breast. Mr.

Barrett began with Prayer. Mr. Prentice of Holliston preach'd on Mark 7.37. He hath done all Things Well. P.M. I pray'd and preach'd on Phil. 1.21. And O that God would pardon our Defects and accept our Offerrings through Jesus Christ and have Mercy upon his Handmaid for his Name's Sake.

Martha, wife of Jacob Gibbs, d. Apr. 27, 1747; Hopkinton VR 421

### **Hammond, father-in-law of Smith of Medfield**

1752 September 23 (Saturday). One Smith of Medfield here, enquiring about the Remedy for Cancers, his Father in Law, one Mr. Hammond having one, which has already destroyed one of his Eyes and now eats his Cheek.

Elisha Smith mar. Sibyl Hamant June 27, 1751, Medfield VR 1:144.

Sybbill Hamant, dau. of Samuel and Hannah, b. Mar. 14, 1730-31; Medfield VR 1:57

Samuel Hammant, husband of Hanah, died Jan. 6, 1755; Medfield VR 1:215.

### **Hardy, Vashti, wife of Daniel (1700-1772)**

1770 January 9 (Tuesday). I preached at Mr. *Daniel Hardys* on Heb. 2.1. Mrs. Hardys Cancer grows worse. Blind Mrs. *Deland* there; as was blind *Molly Warrin*. May God bless His Word to us, and help us to guard against letting it slip!

1770 June 4 (Monday). Visited Mr. *Daniel Hardys* Wife whose *Cancer* grows much worse. His Daughter Adams also [weak and?] wasting State. Prayed with them.

1770 September 26 (Wednesday). I lend Mr. *Rice* one Vol. of the Morning Exercise. After Dinner Mr. *Rice* leaves us to visit his Aunt *Hardy* under her Cancer.

1770 November 6 (Tuesday). P.M. preached at Mr. *Daniel Hardys* the latter part of the Discourse on 2 *Pet.* 1.14.

1770 December 11 (Tuesday). I visit old Mrs. *Hardy* and her Daughter Adams and pray with them.

1771 January 9 (Wednesday). At Mr. *Daniel Hardys* whose wife and Daughter are in sorrowful Circumstances.

1771 February 4 (Monday). Visit and prayed with Mrs. *Hardy* and Mrs. Adams (all at Mr. *Warrins*).



1771 March 12 (Tuesday). Visit Mrs. *Hardy* and her daughter *Adams* who is very low. I discoursed with her as She could bear. Prayed with them.

1771 April 4 (Thursday). Visit Mrs. *Hardy* and Mrs. *Adams* who are both very bad and in Expectation of Death.

1771 July 4 (Thursday). Visit old Mrs. *Hardy*, whose Cancer Still advances. Conversed and prayed with her.

1771 December 16 (Monday). I Visited and prayed with Mrs. *Hardy*. Her Cancer has eat up the greatest part of her Face.

1772 January 14 (Tuesday). P.M. rode over to Hopkinton. In my way there visit Mrs. *Hardy* and pray with her.

1772 January 21 (Tuesday). P.M. visit Mrs. *Hardy*. Her Face is wonderfully deformed and eaten away by the Cancer. She apprehends She is in some good Measure of Readiness. Prayed with her.

1772 February 8 (Saturday). I visited old Mrs. *Woods* and Mrs. *Hardy*. Prayed with each of them.

1772 March 25 (Wednesday). Visit Mrs. *Hardy* whose Face is now chiefly eaten away and both her Eyes are so gone that She is wholly blind. Prayed with her. She Speaks but little, but thinks her Faith and Hope in Christ are well grounded.

1772 April 21 (Tuesday). N.B. Mrs. *Vashti Hardy* dyed last night about 11 o'Clock, aged 73 last Month, having gone through a long Tryal by her Cancer.

1772 April 23 (Thursday). Had no Exercise for the Girls p.m. by reason of the Funeral, viz. of Mrs. *Vashti Hardy*, which I attended upon and prayed at.

### **Mechoachan**

1752 March 28 (Saturday). Mr. *Winchester* from Boston and brings us account that now the Small Pox prevails there very much. I am dissatisfy'd with Mr. *Prince's* misimprovement of the Materials etc. which I Sent him about Mechoachan.<sup>1</sup>

1752 March 30 (Monday). Prepar'd something in reply to *Benevolentius* in the last Boston Gazette.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Walett: Sometimes spelled mechoacanna. Any of several plants of the morning-glory family with roots used as cathartics.

1752 March 31 (Tuesday). Mr. Beeton to Boston. Sent by him to invite Mr. Stoddard to come up to us this Small Pox Time. Sent by Mr. Richard Kelly the like to Brother Samuels Children and to Dr. Parkmans Widow -- to this last because: She had writ to my Daughter Molly that she had rather come here than go to Weymouth. And Sent a Letter to Mr. Kneeland, for the Press, -- in Vindication of Captain Dickerman.

1752 May 8 (Friday). Old Mr. Joseph Sever of Framingham came to me about the Cancer in his Leg, that he might know how to use Mechoacan or Poke Weed. He din'd here.

### Nurse, Ebenezer

1759 January 2 (Tuesday). At Eve I visited Neighbour Nurse whose Swelling in his Thigh increases.

1759 February 21 (Wednesday). A.M. visit Mr. Nurse who lies under his sore.

1759 February 22 (Thursday). Visit Mr. Nurse and prayed with him as I did yesterday Morn.

1759 March 2 (Friday). P.M. my wife visits Neighbour Nurse.

1759 March 6 (Tuesday). I visit Mr. Nurse -- his Sleigh goes again to carry Sarah to get her tooth pulled. Alexander drives for her.

1759 March 15 (Thursday). Visit and pray with Mr. *Nurse*.

1759 March 16 (Friday). Was Sent for to Mr. Nurse's, Dr. *Prentice* being come. I went, found his wife also there. The Doctor judges the Tumour is of Scrophulous kind -- that the Patient is much wasted, is [hectick?], and he fears will not stand it long. The Doctor and his Wife dined with me.

1759 March 20 (Tuesday). Visit Mr. Nurse. N.B. A New Swelling in his Groin. I instructed, and prayed for, him.

---

<sup>2</sup>Clifford Shipton writes that Parkman "was always keenly aware of the importance of studying and recording the symptoms of disease, but on one occasion he received some unfavorable publicity because of an error resulting from his ignorance of botany." (*Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, 6:515, citing *Boston Gazette*, February 18, March 24, 1752; Ezra Stiles, *Literary Diary*, 1:75-76.

Walett: The *Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal*, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, contained an article entitled "The Cure of Cancers," taken from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July 1751. Parkman became involved in a dispute over the nature of phytolacca, poke-weed, and mechoacan. A note from Parkman appeared in the issue of Feb. 18, 1752, in which the Westborough minister asserted "That at New Haven he made a Business of discoursing with Capt. Dickerman; who told him, it was Mechoacan that he used for his Cancer in his Cheek." Another correspondent, "Benevolentius," argued that Parkman was mistaken. *Boston Gazette*, March 24, 1752. The March 31 issue of the paper did not contain Parkman's response and there are no known copies of the next 2 issues.

1759 March 21 (Wednesday). I visited also Mr. *Reuben Maynard*. Mr. William Nurse, Mr. Nat. Whitney, Monsieur *LeBlanc*.

1759 March 22 (Thursday). Notwithstanding the Snow I again Visited. First Mr. Nurse and prayed with him.

1759 March 26 (Monday). Visit Mr. Nurse and prayed with him -- N.B. was there twice to Day.

1759 April 2 (Monday). I visit and pray with Mr. *Nurse*.

1759 April 6 (Friday). Visit Mr. Nurse and prayed with him. He is thought to be worse.

1759 April 8 (Sunday). In the morning my Wife was cool and calm as if She would Soon get Well again; made grateful mention of it in the public Devotions.... Dr. *Crosby* here. Dr. *Prentice* who came to see Mr. Nurse came likewise.

1759 April 13 (Friday). I visited and prayed with Mr. Nurse, who grows worse; and says he is almost out of Hope of any Cure.

1759 April 15 (Sunday). My Neighbour Nurse being grown worse, at Eve my Brother and I made him a Visit and prayed with him. He was exceeding full of pain in his Back so as that he cried out aloud.

1759 April 17 (Tuesday). Visit Mr. Nurse and prayed with him.

1759 April 19 (Thursday). Visit and pray with Mr. Nurse. Mr. Benjamin Nurse and his Wife of Framingham, there.

1759 April 21 (Saturday). I visited Mr. *Nurse* and prayed with him. There is a New Appearance upon his Tumor: where it has Sometimes of late oozed out a little Blood, as from a push; there is now a turning out of the Flesh about a large as a Womans Nipple.

1759 April 25 (Wednesday). Several Days of this Week I visit Mr. Nurse and pray with him -- he being Still in a dangerous State, and growing worse from time to time.

1759 April 26 (Thursday). At Mr. Nurse's.

1759 April 30 (Monday). Visit Mr. Nurse and pray with him.

1759 May 4 (Friday). My wife so much better that She rides in a Chair to Neighbour Nurse's. I had been there in the morning and prayed with him.

1759 May 10 (Thursday). At Eve comes a young man learning the Practice of Physick with Dr. Prentice, and come to Neighbour Nurse, lodges here.

1759 May 14 (Monday). I visited Mr. Nurse, whose sore has now turned out as big as an Egg. I prayed with him.

1759 May 17 (Thursday). I visited Mr. Nurse and prayed with him.

1759 May 21 (Monday). Visit Mr. Nurse and pray with him.

1759 May 24 (Thursday). Visit Mr. Nurse. Talk plainly with him in private, of some particular sins. Pray with him.

1759 May 26 (Saturday). I visited Mr. Nurse. He desired his Wife and the Nurse to go out of the room. He would fain defend himself against what I said to him on the 24th. He wonders how he can be thought to be guilty of those sins which he says he always hated in others. Yet I endeavour to fasten the Admonition: prayed with him: he desires I would not so much as once think he is angry with me for my plainness.

1759 June 2 (Saturday). Visit Mr. Nurse and pray with him.

1759 June 4 (Monday). N.B. Called to see Mr. Nurse.

1759 June 5 (Tuesday). Visit and prayed with Mr. Nurse.

1759 June 6 (Wednesday). N.B. I had visited Mr. Nurse a.m. who after his sore was dressed (which I saw and assisted in) was thought to be dying, but revived.

1759 June 7 (Thursday). After nine at Night Moses Nurse sends for me to Visit his Father who they think will not live out the Night. Went in the Storm -- conversed and prayed with him. Returned about 11.

1759 June 8 (Friday). At Eve I went to see Mr. Nurse and prayed with him.

1759 June 10 (Sunday). *Mr. Ebenezer Nurse dyed* about 2 this Morning, having lain in a very afflicted Condition for about 5 Months, under the holy and Sovereign Hand of God. May it be sanctified to all of us who are round about; but especially to those more nearly concerned!

1759 June 11 (Monday). P.M. attended *the Funeral of Mr. Ebenezer Nurse*.

1759 July 12 (Thursday). Visit Mrs. Nurse and borrowed her Chair to go to *Boston* next week.

1752 October 4 (Wednesday). N.B. Mr. John Oake, who has so long been under a terrible Evil of Cancer, was bury'd this afternoon.

**Pool, sister of Mrs. Goss**

Thomas Goss (Harvard 1737), minister of Bolton, mar. Abigail Wade, dau. of Capt. Samuel and Lydia (Newhall) Wade of Medford, Dec. 3, 1741.

Zachariah Poole of Reading mar. Rebeckah Wade, Sept. 18, 1729; Medford VR 277.

\_\_\_\_\_, wife of Zachariah, died Mar. 18, 1773; Medford VR 417.

1758 May 17 (Wednesday). I having received it from the Mouth of Mr. *Oliver Carter* that the Fast at Leominster is Appointed to be tomorrow (and wrote it down so in his Sight), went to Day over to Lancaster.... Visit old Madam *Prentice* at Capt. Abijah Willards; and Mrs. Zipporah Phelps -- and lodged at Mr. *Goss's* in Bolton: but Mr. Goss not at home. N.B. Mrs. Goss's Sister *Pool* there with Cancer in her Lip.

**Rice, Asher**

Asher Rice, husband of Tabitha, died Aug. 20, 1773; Spencer VR 264.  
Tabitha's death not in Spencer VR or in Brookfield VR.

1772 September 5 (Saturday). My Son B. sat out with me to accompany me in a direct way to Mr. *Asher Rice's*.... We called to see old Mrs. Watson; where was her Son *Draper*: who was our Company through the woods, and (my son parting with me when I got near Mr. Drapers) he took me to his House and I dined there. After Dinner he was kind enough to with [*sic*] me to Mr. *Rice's*, whose Cancer has prevailed upon his Nose, and one of his Eyes is Shut up. I discoursed with and prayed and took final leave, not expecting ever to see him again here.

**Sever, Joseph of Framingham**

1752 May 8 (Friday). Old Mr. Joseph Sever of Framingham came to me about the Cancer in his Leg, that he might know how to use Mechoachan or Poke Weed. He din'd here.

Death not in Framingham VR.

**Smith, Aaron (1713-1781)**

Shipton: "In addition to this trouble [death of wife], the man of God was visited 'with grievous indisposition, particularly affecting his lungs and voice.' It was described as a cancer, so it is not surprising that his visits to Boston for treatment had no effect. In June, 1769, it compelled him to give over regular preaching [citing Moses Hale, Diary [Old Newbury Hist. Soc.], Aug. 10, 1769]." SHG 9:577

1772 April 21 (Tuesday). I went to *Marlborough* to Ministers Meeting. Was moderator and prayed. Mr. Smith poorly again. He has fears of a Cancer in his Lip....

1772 May 23 (Saturday). Mr. Breck came a.m. and dined with us. Mr. Moore being here also I recommended to them the Case of *Marlborough*, Mr. *Smith* being at *Boston* under the operations of Mr. *Pope* (a Quaker) for the Cure of his Cancer.

**Winchester, Stephen of Newton**

Stephen Winchester died Sept. 6, 1751; Newton VR 518.

1751 March 26 (Tuesday). Prosecuted my Journey -- aiming to go to Mr. John Child's, Glazier at Roxbury. N.B. one Cook of Needham or Dedham piloted me, to his Grandfathers Captain Robert Cook in Needham -- to Mr. Stephen Winchester in Newton bad with a Cancer -- and to Mrs. Hastings's who formerly carry'd me up to Newtown in her Lap....

**Whipple, Edwards (c. 1723-1777)**

Died Mar. 11, 1777, in 55th yr.

1776 February 17 (Saturday). Mr. *Edwards Whipple* here. He has a Cancer on his Lip -- is going to *Mendon* to put himself under the Care of Dr. *Pope* -- and desires public prayers tomorrow for him.

1777 March 11 (Tuesday). P.M. hear that Mr. *Edwards Whipple* is very ill with a sore Throat and Canker. I went immediately to see him -- but he was dead before I got to him. A sorrowful Sudden Death! The Lord grant I may be ready for my own! Prayed with the afflicted Mourners.

1777 March 12 (Wednesday). Mr. *Joseph Green* came to ask me to attend his Brother *Whipples* Burial tomorrow.

1777 March 13 (Thursday). Attended the Funeral of Mr. *Edwards Whipple*, prayed at the House of Mourning -- and because the Grave was not finished (by reason of the Stonyness of the Place the Digger was obliged to try three times) I spent Some time in Exhortation to the

Company who were at the House. Mr. *Whipple* was a Member of our Church -- a principal Singer -- dyed in the 55th year of his Age.